

Claims:

1. Sealable packaging container (1) comprising a packaging tray (2) and a packaging lid (3) each having a circumferential area (4, 5) which is preferably at least partially also the sealing area, characterised in that the area (5) of the packaging lid (3) is larger than the area (4) of the packaging tray (2).
2. Sealable packaging container (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that the area (4) of the tray (2) contains at least three openings for through-pins (6).
3. Sealable packaging container (1) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that the circumference of area (5) is wider than the circumference of area (4).
4. Sealable packaging container (1) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that the circumferential areas (4, 5) have corners and the area (5) of the lid (3) is in the region of the corners wider than the area (4) of the tray (2).
5. Sealable packaging container (1) according to claim 4, characterised in that the corners of the sealing areas (4, 5) are rounded off and that the roundness of tray's (2) corners has a radius (8) larger than the radius (9) of lid's (3) corners.
6. Sealable packaging container (1) according to any one of the preceding claims 1 – 5, characterised in that a lug (21) is mounted in each of at least two diametrically opposing corners of the lid (3) or the tray (2) and that the lugs (21) are protruding out of the tray (2) or the lid (3) into the opposing part (2, 3) of the container (1).
7. Packaging machine (10) for sealing a packaging container (1) according to one of claims 1 – 6, having an upper part (11) and a lower part (12) arranged

vertically moveable against each other, characterised in that the packaging machine (10) comprises:

- means (15) for opening the container (1),
- means (17) for evacuation and preferably means (18) for exchanging gas inside the container (1) and
- means (14) for sealing the container (1).

8. Packaging machine (10) according to claim 7, characterised in that the lower part (12) contains a receptacle (13) for holding the tray (2) and that means (15) are lifting means for opening the container (1) by lifting the lid (3) from the tray (2)
9. Packaging machine (10) according to claim 7, characterised in that the lower part (12) contains a receptacle (13) for holding the tray (2) and that opening means (15) keep the lid (3) in its fixed position while the receptacle (13) is moved downwards.
10. Packaging machine (10) according to claim 7, characterised in that the lower part (12) contains a receptacle (13) for holding the tray (2) and that the container (1) is opened by the opening means (15) lifting off the lid (3) from the tray (2) and the receptacle (13) moving downwards.
11. Packaging machine (10) according to any one of the preceding claims 7 - 10, characterised in that the means (15) act upon those parts of the area (5) of the lid (3) which protrude to the area (4) of the tray (2).
12. Packaging machine (10) according to any one of the preceding claims 7 - 11, characterised in that the means (15) are at least three, preferably four vertically arranged pins (15) located at the horizontal circumference of the tray (2) and which extend before evacuation over the upper edge (16) of the tray (2).
13. Packaging machine (10) according to any one of the preceding claims 7 - 12, characterised in that the means (15) are mounted on spring elements (19).

14. Method of sealing a sealable container (1) which comprises a lid (3) and a tray (2), characterised by the steps of:
- inserting the container (1) into the packaging machine (10),
 - opening the container (1) by lifting off the lid(3) from the tray (2) and/or pulling down the tray (2),
 - evacuating, preferably exchanging, the gas atmosphere inside the container (1),
 - sealing the area (5) of the lid (3) onto the area (4) of the tray (2).